FIFTY-SEVENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

SAN FRANCISCO
1912

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

Library
and Chess Room
Mechanics' Institute Building
57 Post Street
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

The Mechanics'-Mercantile Library is now established in its permanent quarters in the Mechanics' Institute Building. It now contains over 40,000 volumes and is being rapidly increased.

It is the purpose of the management to bring the Library to its former efficiency as soon as possible.

The Reading Room list of periodicals embraces the titles of over 500 newspapers, magazines, reviews and journals.

Members may withdraw two books at a time and extra books on payment of 5 cents each.

Books (except new fiction) may be retained for two weeks and then renewed for two weeks longer.

New fiction may be kept one week and is not renewable.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Entrance Fee	$ 1.00
Quarterly Dues (in advance)	1.50
Life Membership	50.00

Library open, 9 a. m. to 10 p. m.
Sundays and Holidays, 11 a. m. to 5 p. m.
Chess Room open daily 9 a. m. to 10 p. m.

FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 29, 1912

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
1912

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE OFFICERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.
Year ending February 29, 1912.

RUDOLPH J. TAUSSIG.....President
LIVINGSTON JENKS .....Vice-President
JAMES G. SPAULDING.....Recording Secretary
JAMES H. LYONS.....Corresponding Secretary

GEORGE BEANSTON	JOSEPH M. CUMMING
J. J. DOLAN	TIREY L. FORD
BYRON MAUZY	ROBERT W. NEAL
DR. A. W. SCOTT	JAMES SPIERS
OTTO von GELDERN	LUTHER WAGONER

JOHN H. WOOD.....Secretary

Mechanics'-Mercantile Library.

F. B. GRAVES.....Librarian

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SAN FRANCISCO, March 7, 1912.

To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute:

In presenting my annual report at this time, I find it difficult to refrain from making too glowing a statement of the affairs of the Mechanics' Institute. A year ago, in estimating the financial difficulties before us, I stated that your Board of Trustees expected a deficit for this year of about $15,600, whereas we have succeeded in piloting the affairs of the Institute through the year with an actual deficit of only $8,333.03, about $7,300 less than anticipated. This was owing mainly to the success in the renting of the Post Street Building. The wisdom of our large expenditure upon this building has been fully demonstrated.

Our receipts from rentals for the building for the year amounted to $34,347.70 and our expenditures for interest and maintenance of the building amounted to $36,954.36, causing a deficit of $2,606.66, where we had estimated a deficit of over six thousand dollars. Should we be as successful during the coming year, our promised rentals will amount to $38,346, which would pay the interest and expenses of the building, give us the library floors rent free, and leave us a little surplus besides. It may be of interest to note that there is not a vacant room in the building.

Our deficit in the library outside of any allowance for rent amounts to nearly $2,800. We have increased our book purchases but by no means sufficiently to satisfy the continual demands for new books and more books of all kinds. According to the statement presented by the Librarian our membership shows a net increase of 268 members and our circulation has increased from 88,753 volumes for the year 1910-11, to 110,194 volumes for 1911-12. For all details concerning the work of the library I refer you to the Librarian's annual report.

The expense for carrying the Pavilion block and some other lands owned by the Institute has been in the neighborhood of $4,000 for the year just closed. Thus far it has been found impossible to make the Pavilion block productive of revenue, as

all seem to be waiting for the action of the city in regard to its projected city hall and civic center. In dealing with the city your Board of Trustees has placed the price of the Pavilion block at one million dollars but as yet we have received no intimation of the appraisement made by the city authorities. Should the city eventually buy the block it would enable us to pay off our debt to the bank and leave us with sufficient money to endow the Institute with an income adequate for its purposes.

Our mortgage amounts to $313,331.73 and your Trustees are now considering the advisability of selling some of the outside lands and applying the proceeds and a part of the cash on hand to reduce the mortgage to a round sum of $300,000.

After the bond election on March 28th next, your Trustees will be in a better position to make plans in regard to the future of the Pavilion block than they are at present.

The details of our financial operations will be found in the annual report of the Secretary.

I hardly think that the Mechanics' Institute ever had a better financial prospect than at present and it now remains for your Trustees to plan its future for the best interest and benefit of its members. As before stated, the purchase of books has been inadequate, and as soon as possible the amount of money devoted to that purpose will be increased materially. We realize thoroughly that our book purchases should be doubled and that we are sorely in need of additional assistants in the library.

The chess and checker room remains an important branch of our activities and every effort has been made on our part to foster it. Judging by the attendance, and the interest displayed in tournaments, we have every reason to believe that our work has been commended.

The course of lectures by Professor H. Morse Stephens has attracted the usual large number of members and has been successful. An attempt was made to make the course self-supporting, and while our expenditures somewhat exceed our receipts, the result has been satisfactory. About $600 worth of tickets were sold and the deficit amounts to less than $100.

In my opinion the Mechanics' Institute has a splendid future before it, a good opportunity to do some effective educational work. The library supplies those who read for relaxation and it supplies those who read for information, it also supplies those who read for education, and it is along all these lines that the Institute must develop.

Your present Board of Trustees, made up as it is of men who have been on the Board for some years, have never lost sight of the intention, not only of building up the library, but also of paving the way for the establishment of a school to aid members in their vocations. Other things being equal, it is the educated mechanic and the educated clerk and the educated professional who wins the prize of contentment, whether it be in position or wealth, and it is the duty and desire of your Trustees to further the interest and purposes and the high ideals of the Mechanics' Institute.

RUDOLPH J. TAUSSIG, *President.*

SECRETARY'S REPORT

SAN FRANCISCO, March 7, 1912.

To the Board of Trustees of the Mechanics' Institute, San Francisco:

GENTLEMEN:

I have the honor to present herewith financial statement of the Mechanics' Institute for the year ending February 29, 1912:

March 1, 1911. Cash on deposit in various banks.....$ 32,659.61

RECEIPTS.

Mechanics' Institute Building, rents from March 1, 1911, to March 1, 1912 (including $12,000 for rent of portion occupied by the Library)		$ 46,347.70	
Pavilion Block, rent		100.00	
Sale of Library Building, Polk and Grove Sts.		160.00	
San Bruno Avenue Lots, rent		360.00	
San Bruno Avenue Lots, tax repaid by tenant		12.30	
Interest		1,042.53	
German Savings and Loan Society—for New Building Payments		19,000.04	
Library and General Administration:			
Dues	$12,829.50		
Entrance Fees	685.00		
Life Memberships	250.00		
Lost Books Paid For	53.35		
Fines and Extra Books	1,176.10		
Lectures	627.75		
Sundry Receipts	4.00	$ 15,625.70	82,648.27
			$115,307.88

EXPENDITURES.

Mechanics' Institute Building—payments for construction, equipment, etc		$ 19,000.04

Forward			$19,000.04
Mechanics' Institute Building—operating expenses from March 1, 1911, to March 1, 1912:			
Pay Roll	$ 8,142.00		
Interest	18,475.10		
Taxes	4,062.48		
Insurance	1,192.31		
Steam Heat	1,300.00		
Electric Current	2,051.55		
Water	228.86		
Window Cleaning	288.00		
Supplies	869.66		
Repairs	211.74		
General Expense	132.66		
		36,954.36	
Pavilion Block—Taxes		4,105.70	
Pavilion Block—Sidewalk		437.90	
Outside Lands—Taxes		64.82	
Transferred to Secretary's Contingent Fund		100.00	
Library and General Administration:			
Advertising	$ 12.05		
Books, Binding and Periodicals	6,251.66		
Furniture	208.24		
General Expense	1,037.52		
Insurance	153.00		
Legal Expense	226.25		
Moving to New Building	499.50		
Lectures	528.48		
Printing and Stationery	658.78		
Salaries	8,843.00		
Rent of Library Rooms in Post St. Bldg., from March 1, 1911, to March 1, 1912	12,000.00		
		$ 30,418.48	
			$ 91,081.30
Cash on hand in various banks, March 1, 1912			24,226.58
			$115,307.88

The net amount expended since April 18, 1906, on Books, Binding and Periodicals has been.....$ 56,524.36

The amount paid out for construction equipment, etc., of the new building on Post Street, has been.....$313,331.73
all of which has been borrowed from the German Savings and Loan Society on Mortgage covering the Post Street property and part of the Pavilion Block.

Insurance is carried as follows:

Books	$ 17,000.00
Furniture	4,000.00
Post Street Building (besides accident and plate glass insurance)	175,000.00

The Real Estate owned is as follows:

Pavilion Block bounded by Larkin, Grove, Polk and Hayes Streets (unimproved).

Post Street Lot covered by Mechanics' Institute Building.

Lots 339 and 340 Precita Valley Lands (leased to Krieg Tanning Co. at $30.00 per month).

Seven lots in People's Homestead Tract A (unimproved).

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. WOOD,

Secretary Mechanics' Institute.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

SAN FRANCISCO, March 5, 1912.

To the President and Board of Trustees, Mechanics' Institute:

GENTLEMEN:

I have the honor to submit for your consideration the fifty-seventh annual report of the Library for the year ending February 29, 1912.

MEMBERSHIP.

During the year the names of 7 life and 685 subscribing members have been added to our membership and 320 have been withdrawn; in addition 104 names were dropped for non-payment of dues.

Mr. Henry F. Williams a charter member of the Institute, and Professor George Davidson, both honorary members, died during the year.

I have also to report the death of the following life members: Mr. John Bermingham, Mr. J. Brandenstein, Mr. G. D. Edwards, Mr. A. G. Eells, Mr. Robert Ewing, Dr. Henry Gibbons, Jr., Mr. John Grant, Mr. E. Marks, Mr. A. S. Perley, Mr. J. B. Reinstein, Mr. John H. Sievers, and Mr. M. A. Wheaton.

Mr. Henry F. Williams was a Trustee in 1855-58, 1862 and 1864, and Corresponding Secretary during 1855-58, and 1862. Mr. Robert Ewing was a Trustee in 1870, and in 1890-91.

Membership March 1, 1911	3,036
New Members, Life	7
New Members, Subscription	685
	3,728
Withdrawn and suspended	424
Membership February 29, 1912	3,304

The membership is divided as follows:

Honorary Members	8
Life	636
Subscribing	2,660
	3,304

BOOKS.

The accessions of books for the year have been 3,763 volumes:

By Purchase	2,699
Gift	636
Binding	426
Exchange	2
	3,763

Number of volumes reported Feb. 28, 1911			35,592
Accessions, Mar. 1, 1911, to Feb. 29, 1912		3,763	
Less lost and paid for	54		
Condemned	17		
Lost by dropped memberships	12		
Exchanged	6	89	
Net gain			3,674
Number of volumes March 1, 1912			39,266

In addition to the number of gifts noted above, the Library has received during the year many gifts of unbound pamphlets and Government documents which are not entered in the accession register. A list of all the donors with a statement of the number of books or pamphlets given will be found at the end of this report.

ACCESSIONS BY CLASSES.

	Vols. Purchase	Cost	Gift	Binding	Exc.	Total
General Works	74	$321.04	8	102	1	185
Philosophy	48	55.15	5	....	...	53
Religion	19	46.67	3	....	...	22
Sociology	127	249.91	150	32	...	309
Science	96	219.72	37	60	...	193
Useful Arts	233	634.76	283	150	...	666
Fine Arts	129	239.43	49	63	...	241
Literature	229	289.17	13	12	...	254
German	29	34.13	...	....	...	29
French	44	59.45	1	....	...	45
Travel	156	329.83	22	7	1	186
Biography	95	191.43	6	....	...	101
History	103	196.88	22	....	...	125
Fiction	1317	1371.71	37	....	...	1354
Totals	2699	$4239.28	636	426	2	3763

CIRCULATION.

There were issued for home use 110,194 volumes, an average of 9,182 volumes per month. The following table gives the statistics of circulation by classes:

General Works	82
Philosophy	1420
Religion	509
Sociology	1824
Science	943
Useful Arts	2542
Fine Arts	1323
Music	672
Literature	4552
German	1615
French	1175
Travel	4005
Biography	2638
History	2034
Fiction	81,217
Children's Books	1300
Periodicals	2343
	110,194

Fiction and Juvenile.....82,517 Vols. 74.9 per cent.

Non-fiction ..... 27,677 Vols. 25.1 per cent.

RECEIPTS.

The receipts of this department for the year have been as follows:

Entrance Fees	$ 685.00
Life Memberships	250.00
Dues	12,829.50
Books paid for	52.70
Magazines paid for	.65
Fines	553.90
Extra Books	622.20
Lecture Tickets	481.50
	$15,475.45

In conclusion, I desire to express my appreciation of the faithful services given by the Library staff, and to thank the members of your

Board for their hearty co-operation in the up-building of the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

F. B. GRAVES,
Librarian.

GIFTS.

Books donated to the Library, 1911-1912:

Donors.	No. of Vols.
Abrams, Dr. A.	1
American Steel and Wire Co.	1
Anonymous	3
Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America	1
Atherton, Gertrude	3
Beanston, George	11
Bixby, Dr. E. M.	30
Blockman, L. E.	2
Bogue, Virgil G.	1
Bookwalter, John W. (N. Y.)	1
Boyle, Thos. F.	1
Brewer, George N.	1
California Building and Loan Commission	1
California Insurance Commission	1
California, Secretary of State	1
California State Board of Charities	2
California State Library	3
California Bankers' Association	1
Carssow, F. H.	1
Chicago Department of Public Works	3
Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce	1
Cleveland Chamber of Commerce	1
Crawford, C. B.	4
Davis, Horace	1
Dodge, Melvin G.	1
Elkus, Abram I.	1
Faulkner, Richard D.	5
Fichtenmuller, A. M.	11
Goodrum, W. E.	10
Graves, F. B.	3
Haight, Samuel	9
Halsey, N. W. & Co.	1
Harris, F. E.	1

Donors.	No. of Vols.
Harvard University	1
Hayes, E. A.	1
Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission	2
Ingalls, Mrs. Carrie Crane	1
Iowa Grand Lodge, F. A. M.	1
James, Geo. Wharton	1
Jordan, R., Jr.	2
Jos. Dixon Crucible Co.	1
Kahn, Julius	3
Leland Stanford Jr. University	2
Lowenberg, Mrs. I.	1
Maisondeau, N.	1
Master Car Builders' Association	1
Merriam, G. & Co.	1
Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board	1
New York State Library	1
New Zealand, Registrar-General	1
Ohio Geological Survey	3
Pacific Coast Gas Association	1
Pacific Gas & Electric Co.	2
Perkins, Geo. C.	35
Philadelphia Bureau of Surveys	1
Porter, Robert P.	1
Princeton University	1
Redding, Jos. D.	1
Review of Reviews	4
Rollins, E. H. & Sons	1
Root, Henry	2
San Francisco Board of Supervisors	2
San Francisco City and County Auditor	1
S. F. Relief and Red Cross Funds	1
Sessions, Chas. R.	17
Southern Pacific Co.	1
Starrett, D. W.	2
Stokes, Fredk. A.	1
Symmes, F. J.	1
System Co.	1
Technical Society of the Pacific Coast	15
Thompson, Slason	1
Thurston, E. T.	1
Tveitmoe, O. A.	1
U. S. Bureau of Soils	1

Donors.	No. of Vols.
U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey	4
U. S. Dept. of Commerce and Labor	1
U. S. Geological Survey	2
U. S. Interstate Commerce Commission	1
U. S. Naval Observatory	2
U. S. Navy Department	1
U. S. Smithsonian Institution	13
U. S. Superintendent of Documents	282
U. S. War Department	1
University of Oregon (Library)	11
Walker, David H	1
Wood, Fred B	38
Wood, R. M	9

Associations and individuals who have made donations other than bound volumes:

Donors.	
Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia	1 pamphlet
Academy of Pacific Coast History	1 pamphlet
American Ass'n. for Labor Legislation (N. Y.)	2 pamphlets
American Museum of Natural History	1 pamphlet
American Printers' Cost Commission	3 pamphlets
American Railway Bridge & Bldg. Ass'n	1 pamphlet
Asiatic Exclusion League	1 pamphlet
Association of Life Insurance Presidents	1 pamphlet
Beanston, George	17 pamphlets
Belleville Commercial Club	1 pamphlet
Boston Port and Seaman's Aid Society	1 pamphlet
California Board of Harbor Commissioners	1 map
California State Library	21 pamphlets
California Academy of Sciences	1 serial
California Development Board	1 pamphlet
Canada, Geological Survey	9 serials
Carnegie Hero Fund Commission	1 pamphlet
Crocker, W. H	1 pamphlet
Davidson, Prof. George	1 serial
Fairmont Park Art Association	1 pamphlet
Faulkner, Richard D	3 pamphlets
General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen	1 pamphlet
Golden Gate Kindergarten Association	1 pamphlet
Grunsky, C. E	22 pamphlets
Harvard University	1 pamphlet

Donors.	
Hebrew Technical Institute	1 pamphlet
Horstmann, W. H. Co	1 pamphlet
Hyde, Chas. G	3 pamphlets
Indian Rights Association	1 pamphlet
Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arb.	1 pamphlet
Leland Stanford Jr. University	3 pamphlets
Lewis, Dr. J. Cresswell	1 magazine
Lewis Institute (Chicago)	1 pamphlet
Lichtenstein, Gaston	1 pamphlet
Lick Observatory	1 pamphlet
Milwaukee Bureau of Economy and Efficiency	9 serials
Minneapolis Board of Park Commissioners	1 pamphlet
National League for Medical Freedom	12 serials
Newmark, Dr. L	15 magazines
Oakland, Clerk City Council	2 pamphlets
Oberlin College	1 pamphlet
Panama-Pacific International Exposition	1 pamphlet
Pennsylvania Museum	1 pamphlet
Pennsylvania Prison Society	1 pamphlet
Perkins, George C	30 serials
Sanford, O. N	113 serials
Saulmann, J. C	1 pamphlet
See, T. J. J	3 pamphlets
Teachers' College, Columbia University	1 pamphlet
Underwriters' Fire Patrol of S. F	1 pamphlet
U. S. Bureau of Mines	21 serials
U. S. Geological Survey	9 pamphlets
U. S. Smithsonian Institution	13 serials
U. S. Superintendent of Documents	6 pamphlets 15 serials
University of California	1 pamphlet
University of Chicago	2 pamphlets
University of Illinois	1 serial
University of Washington	1 pamphlet
Whitcomb, Mrs. E. M. North	2 pamphlets
Wood, Fred B. (unbound magazines)	24 volumes

LIBRARIES SENDING REPORTS OR BULLETINS.

Birmingham Free Libraries Committee	England.
Brooklyn Public Library	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Buffalo Public Library	Buffalo, N. Y.
Carnegie Public Library of Pittsburg	Pittsburg, Pa.
Carnegie Public Library	Bradford, Pa.
Chicago Public Library	Chicago, Ill.
Cincinnati Public Library	Cincinnati, O.
Cleveland Public Library	Cleveland, O.
Dayton Public Library	Dayton, O.
Detroit Public Library	Detroit, Mich.
Enoch Pratt Free Library	Baltimore, Md.
Free Library of Philadelphia	Philadelphia, Pa.
Grand Rapids Public Library	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Haverill Public Library	Haverill, Mass.
Helena Public Library	Helena, Mont.
John Crerar Library	Chicago.
Library Co. of Philadelphia	Philadelphia.
Los Angeles Public Library	Los Angeles, Cal.
New York Public Library	New York.
Newton Free Library	Newton, Mass.
Oakland Public Library	Oakland, Cal.
Omaha Public Library	Omaha, Neb.
Pasadena Public Library	Pasadena, Cal.
Paterson Public Library	Paterson, N. J.
Peabody Institute	Baltimore, Md.
Pratt Institute Free Library	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Providence Athenaeum	Providence, R. I.
Providence Public Library	Providence, R. I.
Public Library of Western Australia	Perth, W. Australia
Rosenberg Library	Galveston, Tex.
St. Louis Mercantile Library Ass'n	St. Louis, Mo.
St. Louis Public Library	St. Louis, Mo.
Salem Public Library	Salem, Mass.
San Francisco Public Library	San Francisco, Cal.
Springfield City Library	Springfield, Mass.
Syracuse Public Library	Syracuse, N. Y.
Toronto Public Library	Toronto, Canada.
U. S. Library of Congress	Washington, D. C.
Victoria Public Library	Victoria, Australia
Worcester Free Public Library	Worcester, Mass.